

George Washington to John A. Washington, June 10, 1778, The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.

***To JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON**

Camp, near Valley forge, June 10, 1778.

Dear Brother: I do not recollect the date of my last to you, but although it is not long ago, I cannot let so good an opportunity, as Captn. Turberville affords, slip me. Your favors of the 10th. of April from Bushfield, and 8th. of May from Berkeley, are both before me, and have come to hand, I believe, since my last to you.

We have been kept in anxious expectation of the Enemy's evacuating Phila. for upwards of fourteen days; and I was at a loss, as they had Imbarked all their Baggage, Stores, &ca. on Board Transports, and had passed all those Transports (a few only excepted) below the Cheveaux de Frieze, to acct. for their delay; when behold on Friday last the additional Commissioners, to wit, Lord Carlisle, Govr. Johnson, and Mr. Willm. Eden arrived at the City; whether this, heretofore, has been the cause of the delay I shall not undertake to say, but, more than probably, it will detain them for some days to come; they give out, as I understand, that we may make our own terms provided we will but return to our dependance on Great Britain; but, if this is their expectation, and they have no other powers than the Acts (which we have seen) give them, there will be no great trouble in manageing a negotiation; nor will there be much time spent in the business I apprehend. They talk, as usual, of a great reinforcement; but whether the situation of affairs between them and France will admit of this, is not quite so clear. My wishes lead me, together with other circumstances, to believe that they will find sufficient employment, for their

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reinforcements at least, in other Quarters; time however will discover, and reveal things more fully to us.

Out of your first and Secd. draught by which we ought to have had upwards of 3500 Men for the Regiments from that State, we have received only 1242 in all. I need only mention this fact in proof of what other States do; of our prospects also; and, as a criterion by which you may form some estimate of our real numbers when you hear them, as I doubt, not you often do, spoke of in magnified terms. From report, however, I should do injustice to the States of Maryland and New Jersey, were I not to add, that they are likely to get their Regiments nearly compleated.

The extreme fatigue and hardship which the Soldiers underwent in the course of the Winter, added to the want of Cloath, and, I may add, Provisions, have rendered them very sickly, especially in the Brigade you have mentioned (of No. Carolina); many deaths have happened in consequence, and yet the Army is in exceeding good Spirits.

You have doubtless, seen a publication of the Treaty with France, the Message of the King of France by his Ambassador to the Court of London, with the Kings Speech to, and addresses of, Parliament upon the occasion. If one was to judge of the Temper of these Courts from these documents, War I should think must have commenced long before this; and yet the Commissioners (but we must allow them to lye greatly) say it had not taken place the 28th. of April, and that the differences between the two Courts was likely to be accommodated; but I believe not a word of it; and as you ask my opinion of Lord Norths Speech and Bills, I shall candidly declare to you, that they appear to me, to be a compound of Fear, art, and villainy, and these ingredients so equally mixed, that I scarcely know which predominates.

I am sorry to hear of Billy Washingtons¹ ill health, but hope he is recovered. Mrs. Washington left this the day before yesterday for Mt. Vernon. My love to my Sister and the Family is most sincerely offered, and I am with the truest regard and affection yours, &c.

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William Augustine Washington, son of Augustine and nephew of George Washington.